

Redistricting Nevada Part I: US Congress

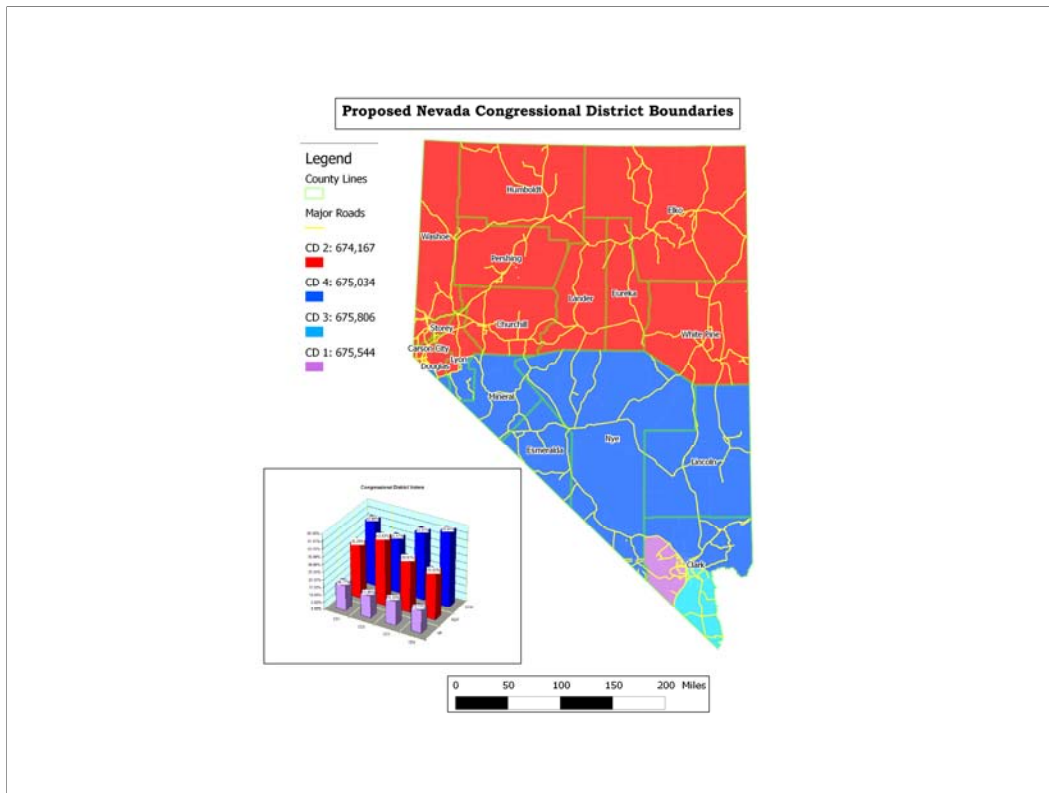
A Grassroots Proposal

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The target congressional district population for Nevada is the total population divided by 4, or 675,138.

The map displays Option 2 of three options we considered for the boundary between CD 2 and CD 4. One criterion we attempted to follow was to divide these two districts along an almost straight east/west line extending across the state. Adhering closely to this criterion requires cutting across the southern ends of Lyon and Douglas Counties, but otherwise the boundary follows the northern lines of Lincoln, Nye, and Mineral Counties. Option 2, presented here, follows major highways in Lyon and Douglas Counties.

Option 1 differs from Option 2 only in Lyon and Douglas Counties. Option 1 uses a combination of minor roads or streets, precinct boundaries, and latitude lines, somewhat more complicated to describe than Option 2.

Option 3 avoids splitting Douglas County by including all of White Pine County, and splitting Lyon County along a different route. This results in placing part of the CD 2/CD 4 boundary more than 100 miles further north than required by either Option 1 or Option 2.

“Equal” Population

Proposed Congressional Districts
2010 Census

State	Max	Min	Target	Difference
NV	675,806	674,167	675,138	0.24%

Abrams v. Johnson, 521 U.S. 74 (1997) [117 S. Ct. 1925], explicitly allows the largest and smallest Congressional District populations to differ by at least 0.35% of the target number, if the State Legislature has a reason for the difference. In 2002, 5 states had differences greater than our plan has and were not successfully challenged in court (see note).

108th Congressional Districts
2000 Census

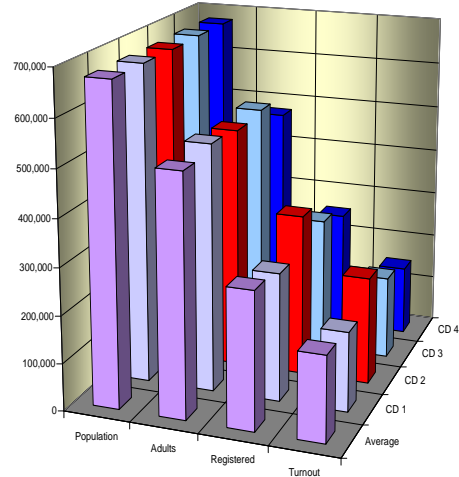
State	Max	Min	Target	Difference
AR	672,756	666,058	668,350	1.00%
ID	648,774	645,179	646,977	0.56%
MA	636,554	634,062	634,910	0.39%
PA	647,435	645,403	646,371	0.31%
HI	606,718	604,819	605,769	0.31%

Three states created Congressional Districts for the 108th Congress (after the 2000 Census) with differences larger than the 0.35% value explicitly allowed by *Abrams*. In Pennsylvania, Richard and Norma Jean Vieth challenged the state’s redistricting plan; they were successful at the district court level in one of their three lawsuits when the two-member majority refused to acknowledge that *Abrams* had ever been handed down. Later, the Supreme Court clarified all the redistricting issues arising from the Vieth challenges when they ruled strongly for the State of Pennsylvania at 541 U.S. 267, (2004). We have found no record of any other redistricting cases adjudicated or even filed after 1997 that challenge Congressional District Population differences of 0.35% or less.

Arkansas shows that even a 1% difference is acceptable if there is a good reason for choosing a boundary – in this case, following the Arkansas River as a Congressional District boundary line.

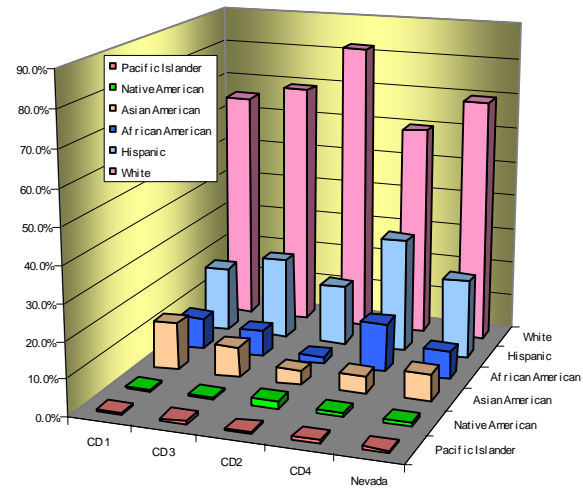
Population, Registration, and 2010 General Voter Turnout

District	Adults	Registered	Turnout
CD 1	77.5%	40.2%	25.0%
CD 2	76.2%	51.0%	33.9%
CD 3	77.3%	42.6%	26.1%
CD 4	70.5%	37.7%	22.0%
Average	75.4%	42.9%	26.7%



Since the total population of the proposed districts differ by much less than 1%, the bar graph appears to have the same height for each district. Differences become visible even on this scale for the number of adults (voting age population). Registration totals show even greater differences, and the greatest differences can be seen for voter turnout in the 2010 General Election.

Adult Demographics



The detailed report includes Demographics for the total population, not just the adult (i.e., voting age) population. The chart presented here shows the demographic characteristics most relevant to the political impact of any redistricting plan. Similar demographic diversity is shown by the total population, being most pronounced in CD4 and least pronounced in CD2.

Partisan Registration and Voting

Active Registered Voters							
	DEM	INA	LIB	NP	OTH	REP	DEM-REP
CD1	42.60%	4.24%	0.59%	16.77%	0.50%	35.29%	7.31%
CD2	35.47%	4.61%	0.70%	14.96%	0.83%	43.43%	-7.96%
CD3	43.91%	4.56%	0.62%	16.39%	0.62%	33.91%	10.00%
CD4	48.94%	4.28%	0.52%	15.14%	0.49%	30.62%	18.32%
Voted in 2010 G							
	DEM	INA	LIB	NP	OTH	REP	DEM-REP
CD1	42.40%	3.61%	0.51%	13.57%	0.36%	39.55%	2.85%
CD2	34.63%	3.71%	0.62%	11.98%	0.60%	48.47%	-13.84%
CD3	43.71%	3.84%	0.49%	13.25%	0.40%	38.32%	5.39%
CD4	48.32%	3.57%	0.44%	11.88%	0.30%	35.49%	12.83%

Considering only the registration by party in each proposed Congressional District makes CD4 appear to be a stronger district for Democrats than CD2 is for Republicans. However, this perception changes drastically by considering the voter turnout. Based on turnout, CD2 is actually a bit stronger for Republicans than CD4 is for Democrats.

Nevada has 1,158,069 active registered voters, of whom 488,696 (42.20%) are Democrats and 420,836 (36.34%) are Republicans. Because there are more registered Democrats than Republicans in Nevada, we have reported the Democratic edge in each Congressional District for both registration and voting in the 2010 General Election. Statewide, the Democratic **registration** edge is 5.86%.

	DEM	REP	TOTAL
NV	488,696	420,836	1,158,069
%	42.20%	36.34%	100.00%

Only 721,812 Nevadans voted in the 2010 General Election, of whom 299,396 (41.48%) were active registered Democrats and 297,641 (41.34%) were active registered Republicans. Statewide, the Democratic **voting** edge is 0.24%, almost a tie.

	DEM	REP	TOTAL
NV	299,396	297,641	721,812
%	41.48%	41.24%	100.00%

How Competitive Are Our Proposed Clark County CDs?

2010 Election for Governor				
District	Turnout	Votes	Reid	Sandoval
CD 1	167,800	166,549	73,581	85,970
		100.00%	44.18%	51.62%
CD 3	176,912	175,493	79,653	87,822
		100.00%	45.39%	50.04%
CC CD 4	121,290	120,138	63,821	50,839
		100.00%	53.12%	42.32%
2010 Election for Lieutenant Governor				
District	Turnout	Votes	Krolicki	Sferrazza
CD 1	167,800	162,886	83,862	68,259
		100.00%	51.48%	41.91%
CD 3	176,912	171,903	86,161	73,522
		100.00%	50.12%	42.77%
CC CD 4	121,290	117,381	48,854	59,878
		100.00%	41.62%	51.01%

As an indicator of how competitive the proposed Congressional Districts are, we examined the voting results for Clark County Precincts within our proposed Congressional Districts 1, 3, and 4 (District 2 is overwhelmingly Republican). The results clearly show that Districts 1 and 3 are competitive since Republican candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor both won over their respective Democratic opponents. Democrats won both races in District 4, but by a much smaller margin than indicated by the percentage registration data for these parties.

Advantages of the Proposal

- Major features were used for Congressional District boundaries – *no gerrymandering!*
- District population totals are well within *Abrams* constraints.
- Districts realistically divide voters by geography, demographics, and party.
- Two of four districts are very competitive.

Please study the full report, **Redistricting Nevada, Part I: US Congress**, for more details on this Grass Roots Proposal. A copy can be obtained from NELIS (<https://nelis.leg.state.nv.us/App#/Committee/Meetings/Assembly/Legislative%20Operations%20and%20Elections>) or from the authors.